

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF SPORT AND RECREATION IN QUEENSLAND

[By C. G. AUSTIN.]

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The task of compiling some observations on the sporting⁽¹⁾ history of this State has shown that whilst Queenslanders are, and have always been, very interested in sport, and associated recreational activities, their interest has been towards participation rather than as spectators. Following this wide participation in sport it could be expected that our top athletes would predominate in the interstate and international field, but despite the many prominent performers that have been produced, this has been the exception rather than the rule.

Also with wide participation and consequent lack of spectator interest, the potential champion is expected to prove his worth under the same conditions as apply to the average performer. These opening observations are made in a positive sense, for the wide participation in outdoor life, particularly in the pursuit of sport, has undoubtedly had a good effect on the physical well-being of Queenslanders.

Some organised sports have been slow to spread to areas outside Brisbane, or large country towns, as the temperate climate and easy availability of creek, river or beach for bathing, surfing or fishing provides sufficient sporting recreation for many Queenslanders at the expense of organised games in a limited area. One exception is tennis for the many public and private courts bring this game within reach of almost everyone within the State.

In the time available it is not possible to provide a list of statistical information, and this is not attempted. Names and performances are quoted to give colour to the narrative or to emphasise a phase rather than to attempt to assess the best performances.

Little space is given to team games and results, owing to the same difficulty of assessing the best performances. There is not even time to record every Queenslanders who has won an Australian title, but all Empire and Olympic games successes are given.

(1) Assistance of N. E. Kropp is acknowledged; also "Cavalcade of Queensland Sport 1901-1951."

Horse Racing

Horse racing was a favourite sport amongst squatters and early residents, but this took the form of match-races with the two owners riding their respective horses.

According to Constance Petrie⁽²⁾ the first race-course in Brisbane started from the Women's Factory (now the site of the General Post Office) as far as Albert Street, where a three-railed fence and a ditch some feet wide were jumped; the course continued round towards the Gardens, the same ditch and fence being jumped lower down, past the Roman Catholic Cathedral and back to the Women's Factory. The next race-course listed was at West End where a man named Greenyeard obtained a licence for a public house and the squatters started a race-course there. The next course was at Cooper's Plains and the fourth at New Farm.

The "Brisbane Courier"⁽³⁾ in the special issue to mark the Centenary of the settlement at Humpybong in 1824 gives July 17, 1843, as the date on which the first race meeting took place at Cooper's Plains. The starting point of the South Brisbane course was near the junction of Grey Street and Melbourne Street.

The New Farm race-course was established in 1846 when a three days' meeting was held. The Queensland Turf Club was established in August 1863, and the first meeting at Eagle Farm was held on August 14, 1865.

Country Racing

As the settlement of this State progressed, horse-racing progressed with it. The first centre outside the metropolis to conduct a meeting of any importance was Ipswich, where in 1861 the Australian Champion Stakes (three miles), with prize-money of 1,000 guineas, was decided under the auspices of the North Australian Jockey Club whose headquarters were established at the old course at The Grange in that city. This was indeed the richest race decided in the first half-century of Queensland racing. Both the club and the course have long since disappeared.

Gayndah. Of the truly country areas Gayndah was the first to promote racing on a large scale and following its formation in the early 1860's and sponsorship of

(2) Tom Petrie's Reminiscences.

(3) 28 July 1924.

some important handicap races over distances from two to three miles, it conducted the first Queensland Derby Stakes from 1868 to 1870, the first being won by Mr. W. E. Parry-Okeden with "Hermit." In the latter year a Derby is also recorded in Toowoomba, but in 1871 the first Derby was run at Eagle Farm, Brisbane, where it has remained, except for a gap between 1873 and 1877.

Country racing spread to centres such as Gympie, Maryborough, Townsville, Warwick and Dalby in the 1870's, and has prospered in varying degrees throughout the State ever since. The meetings held great local public interest, particularly in the boom days of the 'eighties and 'ninties when owners, trainers and riders, as well as sportsmen from the southern part of the State, journeyed to annual country meetings to do battle with local owners and riders, many of the latter being amateurs. One outstanding feature of these early days is the racing distances, many events being up to three miles, local clubs expecting more from their horses than is the case to-day.

Many local rules have applied in the country, particularly where only one or two meetings per year are held. Stipulations regarding feeding are common, and to qualify for certain events horses must be paddocked to ensure grass feeding only for some time before the race day. This is to ensure fair competition for local horses in areas where oats and corn are unavailable and emphasises the intense interest in the performance of local horses at a meeting which may be easily the most important social occasion in the local calendar.

Another unusual feature of country racing was the conduct of "Calcutta" races. The horses in a particular event were first drawn amongst contributors to a sweepstake, and later "auctioned" to the highest bidder, the advantage to the drawer in the sweepstake being a rebate on his auction bid. In addition to value of the pool, the person who "bought" the ultimate winner at auction also received the race stake subject, of course, to any arrangement he may have been obliged to make with the real owner to ensure that the horse involved was racing on its merits.

It is a long way from Thargomindah to Aintree (England), but Bullawarra, a horse bred in this district started in the Grand National Steeplechase at Aintree

in 1915. Bullawarra won the Australian Steeplechase in August 1913, and in the Grand National fell at the water jump when in a good position.

Cricket

Cricket⁽⁴⁾ was the first team game played in the Moreton Bay District, as in 1857 the Moreton Bay Cricket Club existed in Brisbane, and Ipswich boasted a cricket team also. Part of the celebrations heralding the arrival of Sir G. F. Bowen on December 10, 1859, included a cricket match between the Brisbane Club and the North Australian (Ipswich) Club.

J. Bolger, of Brisbane, scored 118 against Ipswich in 1859 and appears to be the first player to score a century in Queensland.

The first inter-colonial game between Queensland and New South Wales was played on June 3, 1864, at Green Hills—Countess Street—in the presence of Sir George and Lady Bowen. New South Wales scored 32, and Queensland replied with 16 runs.

The Queensland Cricket Association was formed in 1876 and the game continued to develop until 1893 when Queensland graduated into a State side with eleven men only. Previously up to eighteen players formed the Queensland side.

Queensland won the first eleven-a-side match against New South Wales played on April 3 and 5, 1893. Queensland won by 14 runs, scoring 100 and 78 against 64 and 100 by New South Wales. The wicket was rain-affected as can be imagined in the year of the 1893 flood.

Queensland played against South Australia in 1899, and against Victoria in 1903. A Queensland eighteen played the Australian Eleven at the Eagle Farm race-course in 1887, Queensland scoring 58 and 58 against 149 made by Australia. Finally, in 1926, Queensland was admitted to Sheffield Shield status. Since that time the game has continued to flourish, although Queensland has yet to win the Sheffield Shield.

Athletics

Whilst the emphasis to-day is on the amateur performers in track and field events, professional runners were the first to put Queensland on the athletic map. Runners from this State who figured prominently in

(4) Assistance of Mr. J. M. Merriman is acknowledged.

Southern events in the 'eighties were Jim McGarrigal and an aboriginal, Charlie Samuels.

They were followed by Arthur Postle, who was born at Pittsworth. After running in amateur events on the Darling Downs, Arthur Postle ran as a professional in Brisbane and many country towns. These events had developed during the 1890's and the substantial prizes offered in centres such as Bundaberg, Gympie, Rockhampton and Charters Towers, as well as Brisbane, attracted runners from all States. Arthur Postle went on to further honours in other States and also in South Africa, England and New Zealand. He established many world records, and those over the shorter sprints still stand, his six seconds for sixty yards in South Africa in 1913 being phenomenal. Another outstanding performance of that era was a standing high jump of 5ft. 8in. by James Gredden of Roma.

Aboriginal runners continued to be prominent in sprinting events, and in 1910 Tom Dancey, a half-caste, won the Stawell Gift. In later years another Queenslander, T. G. Miles, of Bundaberg, became Australian professional sprint champion, and in South Australia in 1928 he ran 110 yards in 10 3-10 seconds, which still stands as the world's best.

Amateur athletic meetings were held in Brisbane from the 1860's onwards, but a governing association was not formed until 1894 when the Queensland Amateur Athletic Association was formed in Rockhampton. In the following year the South Queensland Amateur Athletic Association was formed, and with the decline of the northern association, later dropped the word Southern from its name and assumed control.

The first Queenslanders to become Australasian champions were Neil Ferguson and E. J. Kellett, who won the half-mile and high jump events at Sydney in 1890.

These were followed by further successes in later years, but Queensland has never been the premier State in athletics. One of its best performances was in 1899 when four titles were won, including the one mile by D. Wentworth, of Mt. Morgan, the only occasion when this event has been won by a Queenslander.

Sprinters from this State have always been to the fore in Australian championships, and in 1924 they

secured the first three places in the 100 yards' event and first place in the 220 yards.

Queensland has had its greatest successes in the 100 and 220 yards' sprint, the broad jump and the high jump, while a Queenslander has won the mile championship of Australia on only one occasion. In reply to a question, Sir Raphael Cilento stated that animals bred in the sub-tropics excel in running and jumping in short, sharp bursts.

The first Queenslander to be placed in the Empire Games was J. Humphreys, who was a member of the Australian team in 1950 which won the one mile relay. In 1954 J. Achurch was first in the javelin throw in the Empire Games at Vancouver, setting a new Games record of 224 feet 9½ inches. At the same games Hector Hogan came third in the 100 yards and established himself as Queensland's most successful sprinter by running third in the 100 metres in the Olympic Games at Melbourne in 1956. It was at these Games that C. Porter, from this State, after a marathon contest secured second place in the high jump.

Rowing

Rowing⁽⁵⁾ is one of the oldest sports in Queensland, as rowing races were held to celebrate the arrival of Sir George Bowen on December 10, 1859. The earliest known regatta was a mixture of rowing and sailing races held on the Brisbane River on January 26, 1857, called the Brisbane Anniversary Regatta. Captain Geary was umpire and N. Bartley, hon. secretary and treasurer; members of the committee being Messrs. A. Beazley, G. Harris, G. Christie, and A. Harvey. The names of the boats used in rowing races were "Eliza," entered by P. Byrnes, "Wave," entered by R. Sheridan, and "Spray," entered by F. Isaac.

The first regatta after 1859 was held on December 10, 1860, and the holiday granted to celebrate the separation from New South Wales was "Regatta Day" in Brisbane and the principal sporting fixture for the year.

Four rowing clubs were in existence in 1860, the oldest being the Queen's Rowing Club located at the Customs House. Other rowing clubs formed between 1860-1865 were: Amateur Boating Club, Boundary Street; Princess Boating Club, North Quay; Govern-

(5) Information taken from Commercial Rowing Club's Jubilee Booklet.

ment Printing Boating Club, Queen's Wharf. The Mercantile Rowing Club, formed in 1877, was afterwards the Kangaroo Point Club, then amalgamated with the Breakfast Creek Club (formed in 1885), which in turn became the Brisbane Rowing Club. The Commercial Rowing Club, founded in 1877, is still in existence. The Toowong Rowing Club was formed in 1889.

Country coastal towns have provided strong opposition to Brisbane rowers. In Rockhampton the Fitzroy Club was formed in 1877, the Central Queensland Club in 1882 and Lake's Creek in 1894. In Maryborough, the Maryborough Club was formed in 1877 and the Wide Bay Club in 1881. The Bundaberg Rowing Club was founded in January 1906.

The Queensland Rowing Association was formed in 1889. Queensland first competed in eight-oar racing in the Intercolonial Race in 1885, and again competed in 1890. Queensland first won this race in 1891 and since then has only won twice—in 1924 and 1939. Queensland has had more success in the Australian sculling title, M. J. Slack winning in 1892, 1896, and 1900; A. Dennis in 1898 and A. A. Baynes in 1920 and 1926.

Sailing and Yachting

Sailing as a sport is as old as rowing. At the Brisbane Anniversary Regatta held on January 26, 1857, the second race was for skiffs under sail, the entrants being "Elfin," R. Douglass; "Hope," P. Byrnes; "Currency Lass," N. Bartley; and "Wave," R. Sheridan. Sailing races were also held to celebrate the arrival of Sir George Bowen on December 10, 1859.

Sailing regattas were held for some years; one of the first clubs formed in Brisbane was the Brisbane Amateur Sailing Club in 1885. The club changed its name in 1894 to the Queensland Yacht Club to become the Royal Queensland Yacht Club in 1902.. In the meantime yachting races were held at Humpybong, Cleveland and Southport. The second Annual Humpybong and Sandgate Regatta was held at Bramble Bay on the Prince of Wales' birthday, November 9, 1885.

Originally boats of all sizes competed but later restricted classes were introduced. The first class in Brisbane to be restricted was the sixteen-foot skiff, other popular restricted classes being the eighteen-footer and the Linton Hope rater.

Queensland has been most successful in winning Australian championships with sixteen-foot skiffs and eighteen-footer boats.

Ocean racing is now conducted by the Queensland Cruising Yacht Club, the course being from Brisbane to Gladstone.

Football

National Code

What was known as Victorian Rules was the first code of football played in Queensland, for as early as 1870 the Ipswich Grammar School played the Brisbane Grammar School under these rules. This code was played by the Grammar Schools until replaced by Rugby Union in 1887. This game was played in the Botanic Gardens in 1883 when Brisbane Club played the Downs Club. The first team from another colony to play in Queensland was South Melbourne, which played a match at Albion Park in 1890.

The Australian National Football Council was formed in 1906 and the Queensland Australian National Football League took part in the first all-Australian championships series in 1908. This code is well-established in Brisbane, and following the pattern set in Victoria, district clubs have been established.

To the enthusiastic followers of this game, football means only the National Rules game.

Rugby Union

The birth of Rugby Union in Queensland can be traced to Mr. Fred C. Lea, a young Englishman who arrived in Brisbane in August 1878. He first played for the Brisbane Club in 1879-80-81 under Australian Rules, and it was while engaged in a match in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens that he persuaded the players to try their hand at Rugby. This was the genesis of the code in Queensland, which started in 1882. Mr. Lea served as President of the Union and sole selector. Associated with Mr. Lea was one of the outstanding amateur sportsmen in Queensland, Thomas Welsby, who represented Queensland as half-back in 1882, retained his interest in Rugby Union all his long life, and helped to revive this code in 1928.

The first inter-colonial games against New South Wales were played in 1882 in Sydney, when New South Wales won both matches. Queensland, however, won one of the two matches played in Brisbane in 1883.

These matches were played until 1914, with a final series in 1919, by which time the code had lost popularity. Rugby Union was re-born in 1928, and matches against New South Wales re-commenced in 1929 and have been played ever since.

Possibly the most famous match played by Queensland was in 1899 when the Queensland side, for the first and only time, defeated Great Britain. Queensland played the Reverend Mullineux' fifteen, winning 11-3.

Strong support has been and still is being given to this code by the Great Public Schools, notably the Grammar Schools and the Christian Brothers Colleges at Nudgee and Gregory Terrace, all of whom have produced outstanding players.

Outside Brisbane, most support for this code has come from Toowoomba.

Rugby League

Rugby League with thirteen players developed from the Rugby Union game of fifteen players. Rugby League was first played in 1908, but competitive games were discontinued during the 1914-18 war. After the war the game gained in popularity and now attracts the greatest attendance of any football code.

The golden year of Rugby League football was probably in 1924 when Toowoomba defeated the touring English team 23 to 20, and Queensland defeated this team 25 to 10. In the third test match played in Brisbane, Australia won 21-11, with ten players from the Queensland team in the Australian thirteen. Not all these players, however, were born in Queensland.

Rugby League is very popular in Queensland country centres, the strongest being Toowoomba and Ipswich, who play an inter-city competition with Brisbane. Various other zones, however, exist and there is keen competition between Charleville and Cunnamulla, between Winton and Longreach and Barcaldine, between Maryborough and Bundaberg, and between Townsville and Cairns. A feature of inter-town matches in Northern and Western Queensland is the "Football" train which conveys supporters to the town where inter-town matches are played.

Queensland first played Rugby League against New South Wales in 1908, and the inter-State games have continued except for breaks during the two World Wars.

Soccer

Soccer or Association football has many adherents in Queensland. The Brisbane Rangers' Soccer Club came into existence in 1882, but competitive matches were not played until 1884 when three teams, Rangers, Rosebuds and Normans, competed, the Rangers Club winning the final tie. The matches were played on vacant ground where the Terminus Hotel in Melbourne Street, South Brisbane, now stands.

A stronghold of Soccer has always been Ipswich, whose teams more than hold their own with Brisbane teams. Soccer is popular in the Innisfail district where sons of Italian migrants have made their presence felt. European immigrants in recent years have added colour and skill to soccer teams.

Cycling

Although not as strong now as in previous years cycling has been a popular pastime and sport in Queensland since the introduction of bicycles and tricycles into the State in the late 'seventies and early 'eighties.

The introduction of these machines provided a fresh and adventurous avenue in the social activities of the day, and touring and picnic rides attracted the elite of the new Colony. However, a further step in mechanical progress, the development of the motor car and motor cycle, gradually robbed the cycle of its popularity, and to-day cycling has seriously dwindled both as a sport and as a pastime, when compared with its phenomenal appeal at the turn of the century. Some of the first recorded race meetings were organised in 1883 when the Brisbane Bicycle Club was formed. The "Penny-Farthing" machines were then in use, and it was not until some seven years later that the "safety" frame, similar to those in use to-day, came into favour.

Cycle racing soon spread throughout Queensland, a club being formed at Rockhampton in 1883, followed a few years later by clubs at Townsville and Ipswich. Over the years the country clubs have produced a number of prominent riders.

Amongst the first of the champions produced by the sport in Queensland were Carl G. Swenson and J. A. Smith who, respectively, won the one mile and ten mile Australasian Championships in 1895. The latter was also successful in winning the five mile Australasian title in 1896 and the one mile title in 1897. The record

book is an indication of the quality of J. A. Smith's riding; his time of 2 min. 24½ sec. for the one mile standing start on a grass track in the State title in 1895 still stands as a record.

Another early champion was Ben Goodson, of Rockhampton, who, no doubt inspired by the current successes of other Queenslanders, won the ten miles' Australasian Championship in 1896, and repeated this as well as adding the one mile title two years later. Goodson was also the first Queensland Amateur to represent Australia overseas. He was unsuccessful in England in 1897, but at a World Championship meeting at Montreal in 1899 he gained a second place, and whilst overseas won two American championships and established a world amateur record of 1 min. 27 sec. for one mile behind motor pacing.

Goodson later turned professional and had many successes. He was then a contemporary of Bob Walne, who can be classed as one of the State's greatest cyclists, and who defeated many internationals in scratch races. In later years Teddy Rodgers was recognised as the best cyclist in the State, winning 125 events at all distances.

To continue with the amateurs, the 1920's proved a golden era in Queensland cycling. It is not possible to nominate an individual as dominant during those years, as many riders were amongst Australia's best. Following such champions as the Ashby brothers, and Angelo Castagnola, Les. Munro and Fred. Wruck were outstanding riders. Munro won all four State titles in 1922 and 1923, whilst Wruck won three of the four titles in 1924 and 1925. In the late 1920's Tom Wallace and Tom Briggs ably upheld the standards set. Many Queensland riders won Australian championships during this period, and in 1927 the final five in a Queensland title included four riders who had won Australian championships, and Jack King brought further honour to Queensland by securing Australian representation at the Antwerp (1924) Olympic Games.

However, it was not until 1950 that Queensland secured its first Games victory when Bill Heseltine won the ten miles Empire title with Ken Caves third. This win highlighted another period when Queensland riders were well to the fore with Australia's best, winning a number of national titles and during which Ken Caves

was an Olympic representative in 1948 and with Heseltine and R. Carmichael amongst Australian riders at the Empire Games in 1950.

Rifle Shooting

Another sport which has held the interest of Queenslanders for almost a century has been rifle shooting. Although it still numbers many staunch and enthusiastic adherents it does not attract as participants the same wide representation from the community as it did in the early days. This is understandable when it is realised that the dependence for the successful defence of our country has gradually been removed to a large extent from man's accuracy with a rifle. Thus the original (prosaic) purpose from which the sport itself sprung has been withdrawn.

The first record of a Queensland Rifle Association is in Pugh's Almanac of 1865. This organisation, which had as Patron His Excellency Sir George Ferguson Bowen and as President the Hon. Col. M. C. O'Connell, Commandant of the Queensland Rifle Brigade, and included representatives from country volunteer rifles, appears to have been controlled by the Army. It was not until a meeting in September 1877, followed by the general meeting on October 1 of that year, that the Queensland Rifle Association was formed under the presidency of (now) Sir Maurice C. O'Connell, K.C.M.G., with a membership of seventeen. The name of the Association was later changed to The Southern Queensland Rifle Association.

In 1884 the Defence Act gave legislative recognition to Rifle Clubs, and soon clubs were operating in Mitchell, Maryborough, Townsville, Mackay, Gympie, Rockhampton and Herberton. In 1887 a North Queensland Rifle Association was formed at Townsville, and this Association has continued to foster rifle shooting in the northern part of the State. It is in the unique position as a sporting body of being recognised as a separate State Association on a basis equal to that of other States' Associations, and has a representative on the Commonwealth Council of Rifle Associations. A Central Queensland Rifle Association was formed in 1894, but it was abolished after Federation.

On the competitive side, members of Queensland Associations have been well to the fore in national and inter-colonial shooting. After competing without suc-

cess in international matches for some years Queensland came into her own in 1895, when her riflemen won "The Federal Challenge Cup" presented by the Hon. John McGregor, M.L.A., a Victorian, for the inter-colonial match.

The Queenslanders repeated their success in the succeeding four years and became the proud possessors of the cup which is displayed in the Queensland Museum. This State again won the Federal match in 1901 and repeated their successes in 1906 and 1910 when the match was titled "The Commonwealth Match."

In 1886 an Australian military rifle team visited England and two Queenslanders—Colour-Sergeant Barron and Sergeant Grimes—were included in the contingent. In 1907 the first Empire match, arranged by the Australian Association, was held and was won by Australia, who won this match again in 1909, 1920, 1924, 1937, and 1948 against Britain and the other Dominions. Queensland had representatives in each of these teams. The 1948 team included R. Parker, of Queensland, who won the individual Grand Championship over the week's shooting with an all-time record score of 575 out of a possible 605. The other Queenslanders in this team was V. R. Buttsworth, of Kingaroy, who had previously recorded the highest score in the King's Aggregate in Australia with a score of 347 out of a possible 355 at Liverpool (N.S.W.) in 1938.

Boxing

One of the first amateur boxers recorded in the history of Queensland was Dr. W. M. Dorsey, of Ipswich, who was a heavyweight and who had been appointed magistrate at Ipswich in 1846. Messrs. Turner and Mott are given as two well-known amateurs when bare knuckle fighting was the vogue.

In the early 1870's a professional known as Shaw, of Lutwyche, and ("Soldier") Knight set up as boxing instructors but met with little success. The arrival in Brisbane of Larry Foley, champion of Australia, gave an impetus to this sport. Foley gave lessons and exhibitions and during this trip discovered F. P. Slavin, who later developed into a champion under Foley's tuition in Sydney. Jack Dowridge, known as the Black Diamond, arrived from England in 1875 and commenced teaching in premises in Edward Street, near Adelaide Street.

The formation of the Brisbane Gymnasium in 1882 provided a satisfactory arena for the pursuit of amateur boxing. The gymnasium building, which stood in Turbot Street, below the Observatory, was opened in 1888. Thomas Welsby, a well-known sportsman, was one of the prime movers in the establishment of the gymnasium and became its first secretary. All amateur boxing in Queensland was conducted by the Brisbane Stadium until 1909 when the Queensland Amateur Boxing and Wrestling Union was formed with Thomas Welsby as president.

Queensland boxers have won recognition as Olympic and Empire Games representatives on several occasions, the placegetters being L. (Rusty) Cook, who won the lightweight title in the 1934 Empire Games in London and W. S. Batchelor (flyweight) third, Rod Litzow (welterweight) second in 1954 Games at Vancouver and W. and O. Taylor, who represented Australia at the 1958 Empire Games, W. Taylor winning the bantam weight title.

Professional boxing has long been a popular sport in Queensland, and many Queenslanders have held Australian titles at various times, far too many to enumerate.

The Brisbane Stadium, now the site of the Festival Hall, has seen many thrilling fights. A Spaniard named Lorenz bought the site in 1910, the original stadium having no roof until 1913. A few of many fighters who drew packed houses were Jerry Jerome, Max Gornik, Archie Bradley, Ron. Richards, Tommy Burns, Micky Hill, Jack Hassan, Elley Bennett, Snowy Cullen, and Bobby Sinn.

Golf

The Royal and Ancient Game of Golf came late to Queensland as an organised sport. The game was first introduced into Australia in 1847 when a course was laid out in Melbourne.

The first persons to play golf in Queensland were the Ivory brothers, Frank and Alexander, who purchased Eidsvold Station in the Burnett district from the Archer brothers in 1856. Golf was played over a few holes near the station homestead.

Golf was officially launched in December 1896, when a golf club was formed at Chelmer. Some of the clergy of Brisbane were interested in the game and the Reverend Frodsham, later Bishop of North Queensland,

presided at the first meeting. The Brisbane Club was moved to its present site at Yeerongpilly in 1903, but in the 1920's the game gained popularity and clubs have been established throughout Queensland until by 1959 there were 110 registered clubs with 10,000 members.

E. A. Gill won the Australian Amateur Championship in 1906, the only other Queenslander to win this title being J. Rayner in 1955. Norman Von Nida won the Queensland Amateur Championship at the age of sixteen, and then as a professional won the Australian Open Championship in 1950, 1952, and 1953. He was third in the British Open Championship in 1948. T. J. Coogan was a member of the Australian amateur team which won the British Commonwealth Golf Tournament at St. Andrew's, Scotland, in 1954.

Bowls

The game of bowls which now attracts thousands of players throughout Queensland, particularly in country areas, had a modest beginning. The Brisbane Bowling Club, sponsored by Sir Thomas McIlwraith, was formed in September 1878,⁽⁶⁾ and games were played in the Botanic Gardens. However, as the "ladies required the area for a croquet court," the bowling club was moved in 1881 to a green laid down on the site of the present Roma Street Railway Station, which was opened for play on May 21, 1881.

The Booroodabin Club was formed in 1888, and as the Railway Department required the Roma Street area, the Brisbane Club amalgamated with the Booroodabin Club. The next development in Brisbane was for formation of the South Brisbane Club in 1901.

In the meantime, bowling clubs had been established in the country. A two-rink green laid down by the Hon. A. H. Wilson in his private grounds at Maryborough in 1892 was enlarged later and became the Doon Villa Club. After the death of Mr. Wilson the club went to Kent Street, but in 1915 opened its present home on the Mary River. Maryborough (Kent Street) Club was formed in 1898, to be followed by Darling Downs (Toowoomba) on October 21, 1900.

Representatives of the five clubs, Booroodabin, Doon Villa, Maryborough, Toowoomba and South Brisbane, met in Brisbane on December 10, 1903, and

(6) South Brisbane Club Jubilee Booklet.

formed the Queensland Bowling Association. This game has expanded rapidly as by 1959 there were 245 clubs in Queensland with 25,000 members.

A. Rafton (Yeronga) and R. Marshall (Windsor) represented Australia at the Empire Games at Cardiff in 1958.

The monsoonal rain in North Queensland does not prevent bowls being played in the Italian style. The game is played on a single rink made of sand, with timbered walls. The bowls have little or no bias, but a "cannon" off the timbered wall is frequently used. Many hotels have laid down these rinks, and night games are popular.

Swimming

The rivers and seaside resorts of Queensland have provided scope for swimming. The Queensland Amateur Swimming Association was not formed until 1899, but swimming as a sport was practised earlier, the first swimming sports of the Brisbane Grammar School being held in 1889.

In 1886 the first Municipal Baths were established at Spring Hill and later the Stanley Street Baths on the site where the Dominion Milling Co.'s premises now stand were established by a private company. Booroodabin Baths were opened to the public in 1895, and later replaced by the present structure. The South Brisbane City Council erected baths at the corner of Montague Road and Stanley Street in 1903—the longest baths in the city at that time. There were several tidal baths, and floating baths in the Brisbane River, most of the latter disappearing with the 1893 flood. The last of these, the Metropolitan, remained until the 1920's.

The Springfield and Venning families have always been prominent in Queensland swimming.

The provision of Olympic swimming pools in country centres, notably Dalby, Roma, and Townsville, has given impetus to the sport in these areas and undoubtedly helped to produce Queensland champions.

Queensland has supplied many members of Australian teams at Olympic and Empire Games. W. Fleming was placed third in the 110 yards' freestyle event in the 1938 Empire Games, and C. Weld came second in the 110 yards' freestyle and third in the 110 yards' backstroke in the 1954 Empire Games. The only Olym-

pic gold medal won by a Queenslander was awarded to D. Thiele, first in the 100 metres' backstroke event in the 1956 Olympic Games at Melbourne.

Tennis

The first regular tennis played in Brisbane was at the Brisbane Grammar School, where since 1885 an annual tennis tournament has been held. The Queensland Lawn Tennis Association was formed in 1888, the first president being Mr. R. H. Roe, M.A., Headmaster of the Brisbane Grammar School. The first inter-colonial matches against New South Wales were played on the Brisbane Cricket Grounds.

The first courts at the Toowong Sports Ground were purchased in 1904, but in 1915 when Mr. R. D. Frew was elected President of the Association, the game gained popularity and the present courts at Milton were purchased, now suitably named Frew Park.

Mr. T. E. White's court at Toowong was a well-known rendezvous for tennis players in the 1890's and most of the oldtime players, including Mr. Justice O'Sullivan and Messrs. P. B. Macgregor, A. J. Pixley, E. Hutton and Taylor, played there.

Queensland has won the men's singles championship of Australia on only one occasion, in 1930, when E. F. Moon won the title. The same player was the first Queenslander to represent Australia in Davis Cup matches in 1930, to be followed by I. Ayre as a member of the Davis Cup team in the challenge round of 1951. The first Queenslander to play in a challenge round was M. Anderson from Theodore in 1957 and 1958. Anderson also won the United States singles championship in 1957.

Tennis has spread throughout Queensland, and the climate lends itself to the ever-popular night tennis.

Under the chairmanship of Mr. C. A. Edwards many improvements were made to the Queensland Lawn Tennis Association's grounds at Frew Park. Mr. Edwards always stressed Queensland's ability to organise international games, and this was proved when the challenge round for the Davis Cup, between Australia and United States of America, was held in Brisbane in December 1958, two Queenslanders, M. Anderson and R. Laver, being in the Australian Davis Cup team. Two Queenslanders, R. Emerson and R. Laver, are members of the 1959 Davis Cup team.

Hockey ^(6a)

A game in which most of those interested are participants has much to commend it. Such a game is hockey, which has shown a remarkable growth in thirty-eight years.

Hockey came late to Australia in 1899, and later still to Queensland. Men's hockey owes its beginning to a former New South Wales official, Stanley Willmott, who had played in Wales before coming to Australia. On March 31, 1921, Willmott and Messrs. Irvine, Stevens, Fisher, Farr and Lane met and interested sufficient supporters to start hockey in Brisbane.

Five senior teams entered the fixture competition in 1921, and the first Queensland team was selected in 1921 to play against a Royal Naval side at the Nundah Reserve, the visitors winning 5 goals to 3.

The first Country Association was established at Warwick in 1931, to be followed by Gympie in 1932. Hockey spread rapidly outside Brisbane and by 1959 sub-associations had been formed at Ipswich, Toowoomba, Warwick, Gympie, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns and Atherton. Hockey is now played also at Mt. Isa and the Mary Kathleen uranium field. Approximately 300 teams are affiliated with the Queensland Hockey Association. Hockey is one sport which is played all over Australia and Queensland has won the national title nine times, including its first victory in 1932. It is fitting that in the Centenary Year of 1959, Queensland again won the Australian championship.

Four Queenslanders were in the first Australian Olympic hockey team which played in the 1956 Melbourne Olympiad and finished in fifth place.

Woodchopping

Whilst woodchopping contests have gained in public appeal over the last twenty years or so, they have attracted keen competition since the United Australian Axemen's Association was formed in 1891. These contests are features of agricultural shows and at many country gatherings occupy a large portion of the programme. The sport, of course, has its origin amongst the settlers of the heavily timbered parts of Australia and Queensland axemen have been well to the fore in important events which attract competitors

(6a) Acknowledgments to H. Cormie.

from all States of the Commonwealth. Amongst the most prominent have been Charlie Winkel, rated as the world's best in the 1930's, his brother Marshal, and George Parker.

Surf Life-saving⁽⁷⁾

Surfing is a popular sport in Queensland since its beaches from Coolangatta to Cairns are ideally suited to surfing for most of the year. Surfing tragedies have occurred and these brought about the surf life-saving association. This association, stemming from the Royal Life-saving Society, was founded in Sydney in 1907 and quickly spread to Queensland.

The first life-saving reel in Queensland was used on Southport beach in 1913, and the Queensland Association has grown from seven clubs in 1923 to forty-five in 1959, consisting of 1,500 surf life-savers.

These young men are required to conform with certain physical standards and more than average swimming ability. They undergo a rigorous course of training to enable them to handle patients (sometimes fractious) in heavy seas.

Surf life-saving is essentially team-work, as the linemen paying out and hauling in the line are just as important as the beltman, and the man controlling the reel to ensure that the beltman has the right amount of line while swimming out, and to protect the beltman from being dragged under water when being drawn back to the beach.

The life-saver learns the various releases from the grasp of a drowning person, the hand signals to be given by a rescuer out at sea to the squad on the beach, the general treatment of cases of drowning and the treatment of victims of cramps. Life-savers select for surfers the safest beach site and mark it with distinctive flags so that everyone surfing between the flags is constantly under their surveillance.

The value of the gear and facilities provided on Queensland beaches is conservatively estimated at £180,000.

Dirt Track Speedway Racing⁽⁸⁾

It is a far cry from the Brisbane Exhibition to the Wembley Stadium in London where thousands of fans watch the spectacular sport of dirt track speedway racing, but this sport had its genesis in Queensland.

(7) Includes information supplied by Maurice Webb.

(8) Information supplied by Frank Arthur.

Motor cycle racing as a public entertainment was first tried during the 1925 Maitland Agricultural Show by the then secretary, Mr. J. S. Hoskins. Mr. A. J. Hunting, one of the first to realise the potentials of this new sport, came to Brisbane in 1926 and took out an option over the Exhibition Ground for the purpose of promoting regular full-scale speedway programmes under electric light.

The idea of racing motor-cyclists on a quarter-mile circumference grass track was thought impracticable at the time, but it was to prove practicable, although some of the methods adopted arose not always by design.

The riders soon realised that the left leg had to be protected due to the necessity of sitting the machine over at an acute angle in order to negotiate the track. Most riders then experimented by removing the inside foot-rest and extending the left leg well away from the machine, thus learning that the new system made riding safer and easier. This experiment proved to be the introduction of what was known as the "Australian Speedway Leg Trail," which eventually was adopted on a world-wide basis.

A left foot forward method of riding was later introduced by German riders and adopted by most English and Continental riders.

The first meeting was held on October 23, 1926, at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground, at which 20,000 people attended. Races were run on a grass track, and as a heavy dew had settled on the grass almost every rider fell during the meeting.

Grass soon wore off the track, and not by design it became a dirt track. Thus the first quarter-mile dirt track in the world was used for speedway racing at the second meeting held at the Exhibition Ground on Saturday night, October 30, 1926. Riders soon found that the dirt track provided a better surface than the grass track, and they developed a "power broadside" to negotiate the turns, greatly adding to the spectacle of the meeting.

Suitable clothing was a problem which had to be solved as every rider suffered severely from loss of skin on the left elbow, hip and knee. Leather clothing provided the answer.

Development of a motor cycle more suitable than the stock machine for the new type of speedway racing

was the next problem. The question of power weight ratio was given consideration and a light flexible frame was introduced. A Queenslander, Max Grosskreutz, was responsible for its design in England in 1929, since when it has become standardised and is still used with minor modifications throughout the world.

Riders at the early speedway meetings included: Frank Pearce, Vic. Huxley, Charlie Spinks, Frank Arthur, N. Johnson, S. Dunstan, Hilary Buchanan, Les. Crookall, W. Faber, and D. Smythe.

Within a few weeks of the first meeting at the Brisbane Exhibition speedway racing became popular throughout Australia. In 1928 the Australian promoters, A. J. Hunting of Queensland and J. S. Hoskins of New South Wales, took a team of Australian riders, chiefly Queenslanders, to England and introduced the sport to England and the world.

Underwater Research Group

Queensland with its length of coastline lends itself to aquatic sports, but one group conducts research under the water. The Underwater Research Group was formed in 1954, the members realising that in the fascinating world beneath the waves there was much to be learned that would later be put to gainful employment.

The aqua-lung, mask, and flippers of the free-swimming diver enable him to approach the sea almost with the freedom of the fish. Original members using in the main home-made equipment discovered this, and their enthusiasm has led to a well-established and soundly trained group of over a hundred members, including six active female divers.

Intending members are required to undergo thorough medical tests, and most pass a written examination on equipment and safety procedure. On attaining full membership, each diver is allocated to an instructor who is responsible for the training programme to the various actual diving examination stages. The diving training ground is the Tweed River where new members have all the environmental elements of the sea, but with a greater margin of safety.

The group first gained Australia-wide publicity when the wreck of the barque "Scottish Prince" was discovered off the South Queensland coast. This ship was wrecked in 1887 carrying a cargo which included

Scotch and Irish whisky. The wreck of the "Cambus Wallace," which ran aground off Stradbroke Island, has been re-discovered and explored.

Services to the public are rendered from time to time such as the location and recovery of lost objects. The group spends much spare time in practical projects such as powered surf-boat design and the manufacture of breathing devices, while under-water photography is an important activity.

Other Sports

Space does not permit a detailed account of other sports which have disappeared or are becoming popular. Hunt Clubs were once established at Brisbane, Ipswich and Gayndah. Lacrosse, once popular, is no longer played.

New ballgames such as squash, badminton, table tennis, basketball and baseball all have enthusiastic adherents. Archery claims its followers and the modern pastime of water ski-ing is well to the fore as well as the ultra-modern parachute jumping. Fishing is one of the most popular pastimes, and the Queensland team, greatly helped by the affiliation of the Tweed Heads Club, has always performed well in Australian championships.

Those who seek outdoor recreation in the bush can satisfy their wants in bush-walking, the National Parks Association outings, and various riding clubs.

Any record of Queensland's amateur sporting activities would be incomplete without a reference to the many enthusiasts who perform the administrative and official duties connected with their various sports. The unselfish devotion of these stalwarts, whose efforts are often criticised, is essential to the progress and prosperity of the sporting bodies.

Women's Sport⁽⁹⁾

Tennis is one of the oldest sports as Mrs. Jane O'Brien, of Hawthorne, played tennis at Tambo in 1895, and in the following year was second in the Queensland Ladies' Singles championship to Miss Mabel Mant, who held the title from 1896-1903.

Headline players from 1922-1933 were Mrs. Molesworth, Mrs. Emily Westacott, and Miss May Hardcastle. Mrs. Molesworth was Australian champion in

(9) Taken from articles by Mrs. Ruby Robinson in Brisbane "Courier-Mail" Centenary Issue, 15th June 1959.

1922 and 1923, Mrs. Westacott winning this title in 1939. Mrs. Molesworth and Mrs. Westacott won the Australian ladies' doubles title in 1930, 1933 and 1934. In post-war years came Misses Lavinia Mills, Daphne Seeney, with Fay Muller taking the crown in 1953.

The hundreds of players in the mid-week tennis fixtures can thank women of thirty years ago who realised the need of the young married woman for sport, where they could take their youngsters and enjoy the company of other women whilst seeking recreative relaxation. The late Mrs. Cranfield was one of those far-sighted women to be followed by Mrs. Dowling and in 1931 by Mrs. Gentle.

Croquet is probably the oldest organised game still played to-day. In 1881 the men gave up their bowling rinks in the Botanical Gardens to the croquet ladies. The first club established was the South Brisbane Croquet Club in Musgrave Park. It is a different atmosphere from the finish of a Stradbroke Handicap, but in 1914 the game was played on the lawn of the Ascot Race-course. There are thirty-two clubs in Queensland with 1,000 members.

Mrs. Norm Johnson was the State table tennis champion from 1933 to 1937 and won Queensland its first national title in 1937.

Three different codes of basketball are played. The game was started by various church groups in 1911, and in 1920 Mrs. V. McGregor Lowndes, M.B.E., formed the Queensland Ladies' Basketball Association playing nine-a-side basketball. From nine-a-side developed the faster seven-a-side code, and to-day the new five-a-side basketball has arisen.

The Queensland Women's Basketball Association controls a large number of members. There are approximately 12,000 girls of all ages playing seven-a-side basketball throughout Queensland. The five-a-side code is gaining in popularity as it is played by all States in the Commonwealth.

Mrs. R. D. Eden in 1907 won the first State golf championship. There are now 103 clubs in the Queensland Ladies' Golf Union situated in all parts of the State. Queensland women golfers have always performed well, but Miss Judith Percy is the only one who has won the Australian championship — in 1954 — although Miss Joan Fletcher has been runner-up on three occasions.

Women's hockey, regarded as the main field game in winter sport, was first played in 1913 by Undergraduates at the University. One of the founders of the game, Miss Nesta Brown, the first State President, is still interested in its progress, and two 'Varsity players who have been associated with the game since its inception are Drs. Freda Bage and Dorothy Hill. Two country towns, Kenilworth and Stanthorpe, were the earliest to play hockey, then came Warwick and Toowoomba.

Women hockey umpires have brought honour to the State. Kath. Langan was number one umpire at the World Series in Sydney in 1956, at which Mrs. Ruby Robinson also umpired this international series.

The names of Venning and Springfield are associated with the early days of competitive swimming, and to-day they are still a by-word. Misses Elsie and Lily Venning won many honours and their work for the Royal Life-saving movement will never be forgotten. Miss Mabel Springfield, herself a champion, was the chaperone for the Australian women's team at the Olympic Games in Amsterdam in 1928.

Miss Dorothy Thompson, who won many breast-stroke championships, later married sprint swim champion Reg. Grier, and their three daughters all made their mark in Queensland swimming. Jan, the youngest, represented Australia at fourteen years of age in the 1954 Empire Games at Vancouver, where she was a member of the team placed third in the medley relay.

Miss Denise Spencer, of Roma, and Miss Nancy Lyons, of Brisbane, won Olympic representation in 1948, after winning many Australian titles. Miss Nancy Lyons, for breaststroke and backstroke, and Miss Denise Spencer for freestyle. Miss Nancy Lyons was narrowly beaten in the 200 metres breaststroke event at these Olympic Games.

Misses Lyons, Spencer, and Jeanette Holle swam for Australia in 1950 at the Empire Games in New Zealand, and in 1952 Miss Lyons was again an Olympic representative at Helsinki. In the 1950 Empire Games at Auckland, Miss Lyons came second in the 200 yards' breaststroke, Miss Holle came third in the 110 yards' backstroke, Miss Lyons was a member of the winning 330 yards' medley relay team, and Miss Spencer was a member of the winning 440 yards' relay team.

In 1956 Miss Jan Munro was Queensland's only representative at the Olympic Games in Melbourne. Miss Anne Nelson, of Maryborough, fourteen years old, gained selection in the Empire Games team at Cardiff in 1958.

Miss Thelma Peake was a member of the Australian athletic team at the British Empire Games in 1938, where she came third in the broad jump and was a member of the winning Australian team in the 660 yards' relay. Another of our best athletes was the late Ruby Beattie, in sprinting, hurdling, jumping and field events. Misses Rita and Nellie Dean must also be mentioned as two who excelled in athletics.

Only one Olympic medal has been won by a Queensland athlete. Miss Norma Croker was a member of the Australian women's relay team which won the gold medal for first place at the 1956 Olympics in Melbourne. Other representatives in the Olympic team were Carol Bernoth, high jumper, and Margaret Johnson, broad jump.

Although badminton started in 1920 it did not become popular until 1947. Miss Iris Watson has been the State's single champion 1950-1957. Miss Iris Tubman and Coral Springfield have been prominent players and association workers in this sport for many years.

Women's bowls is a comparatively new activity, starting in 1930, but the progress has been phenomenal. By 1959 there was a membership of 12,000, the largest in the Commonwealth, represented by 60 metropolitan and 178 country clubs. Mrs. A. J. Mouland has been State Secretary for eighteen years.

Cricket strength has never been great, but Queensland has had some excellent individual players. The first interstate games were held in 1932, when Kath. Smith was outstanding; she was a State representative from 1932 to 1936, and played for Australia in three tests against England in Australia in 1934, and she went to England in 1937 as vice-captain of Australia. Miss Freda Stockwell has been associated with the game as a staunch supporter and administrator.

The Brisbane Ladies' Rowing Club was formed in 1908, and although it has a small membership is still in existence. In 1928, Kath Beardmore, Myrtle Reid, Olive Lutz and Olga Carr rowed for Queensland in the Australian Fours title held at Sydney. The only Australian title won by Queensland was in 1954, when the

Tweed Heads crew (affiliated with Queensland) won the fours title. Mrs. Slatter (nee Plint) has done her utmost to keep the sport going.

Fencing has only been prominent as a women's sport since 1948, but this State has had Olympic representatives. Denise O'Brien and Barbara McCreath represented Australia at the Olympic Games in 1956, and at the British Empire Games at Cardiff in 1958, where Barbara McCreath won a silver medal.

Squash is another sport which is becoming popular after a modest beginning in 1949. Lola Parkin has been mainly responsible for the popularity of the sport.

Cricko came into being in 1945, as cricket began to lose ground. It closely resembles cricket; bat, wicket and boundaries are the same, but a rubber ball is used, and a different type of bowling is allowed.

Softball, the summer field game for women, is another new sport which is now played throughout the State, as far north as Mt. Isa.

The lessons of the Royal Life-saving Society have been learnt by many children at school, two of the earliest teachers being Misses Elsie and Lily Venning. Before 1939, the Neptune and Federal Ladies' Life-saving Clubs practised on the beach at Mooloolaba, doing R. & R. work most proficiently.

Vigoro was first played in Queensland in 1929 and over the years has had a fluctuating popularity. It was a very popular game in the schools, but has been superseded to some extent by softball. The Australian Association was formed in Brisbane in 1933, with New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania comprising the membership.